

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 AID-05 COME-00

EB-04 FRB-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01

OMB-01 CEA-01 STR-01 NIC-01 AGR-05 /076 W

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O R 251710Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7715

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 14857

DIA FOR A2 AND D15

PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS

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REF: ROME 14772

1. RADIO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT FANFANI WILL SEE PRESIDENT LEONE THIS AFTERNOON AT 5 PM LOCAL.

DC SOURCES TELL US THAT HE WILL INFORM LEONE THAT HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO RECONSTITUTE CENTER-LEFT COALITION. ACCORDING TO SOURCE CLOSE TO FANFANI, PREMIER-DESIGNATE WILL NOT RPT NOT RESIGN HIS BROAD MANDATE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. RATHER, FANFANI IS EXPECTED BY SEVERAL SOURCES TO ATTEMPT TO FORM A TWO-PARTY GOVERNMENT WITH THE REPUBLICANS. A TWO-PARTY GOVERNMENT WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, A DC ONE-PARTY FORMULA OR A THREE-PARTY COALITION INVOLVING DC-PSDI AND PRI ARE LESS LIKELY POSSIBILITIES. AFTER REPORTING TO LEONE, FANFANI IS EXPECTED TO CONVOKE THE DC DIRECTORATE, POSSIBLY ON MONDAY OCTOBER 28.

2. COMMENT: FANFANI'S DECISION FOLLOWS A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC SECRETARIAT MEETING THIS MORNING WHICH RESULTED IN A FIRM RESTATEMENT OF THE PSDI POSITION ON RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST OPPOSITION AND THUS EFFECTIVELY SLAMMED THE DOOR ON COMPROMISE WITH PSI. ALL PARTIES HAVE BEEN ANXIOUS TO PASS ALONG THE QUOTE HOT POTATO UNQUOTE OF ANY FINAL DECISION TO GIVE UP THE ATTEMPT TO RESURRECT THE CENTER-LEFT. THE DC IN PARTICULAR URGED FANFANI TO MAKE A LAST DITCH EFFORT DESPITE HIS WISH TO REPORT FAILURE TO LEONE WEDNESDAY EVENING. THE REAL DESIRE OF THE DC, PRI, PSI MAJORITY AS WELL AS THE PSDI MINORITY TO AVOID A FINAL CRISIS OF THE CENTER-LEFT FORMULA, MERGED WITH THE GENERAL ALL-PARTY EFFORT TO AVOID TAKING PUBLIC BLAME FOR CRISIS, TO KEEP THE NEGOTIATIONS GOING. NOW THAT ALL SIGNS INDICATE LAZARUS IS ABOUT TO BE PRONOUNCED DEAD, DC WILL HAVE TO MAKE DECISION ON BEST MEANS TO STEER COURSE BETWEEN OPPOSING SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PRESSURES. ONE WAY OUT WOULD BE THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DC-REPUBLICAN COALITION OPEN TO SUPPORT IN PARLIAMENT FROM BOTH DEMOCRATIC LEFT AND RIGHT. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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